

upon graduating, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

He was stationed abroad in Morocco at the Nour Asour Air Force Base outside of Casablanca where he traveled extensively throughout North Africa and Europe, with tours of duty that included Rhine Maine Air Force Base in Germany.

Upon returning home, Colonel Marsden applied his knowledge of the Air Force to the burgeoning aerospace industry in southern California. He focused mainly on aerospace marketing and sales. He also took part in the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo space missions. The last major project he worked on was the C-17 cargo plane for Boeing. He remained on active reserve and in command of the 9012 Air Force Reserve Squadron until his retirement in 1983. He died on December 2, 2007.

Colonel Marsden was married to Paula Walsh in November of 1956 in Sherman Oaks, California. This past year they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Colonel Marsden is survived by Paula, his loving wife; his three children, Brinton Jr., Kerri and Craig; his six grandchildren, Jason, Brinton, James, Connor, Timothy, and Jennifer. In addition he leaves behind his sister, Beverly Birner.

His funeral took place at the St. Cyrils of Jerusalem Church in Encino, California on December 6, 2007. He will be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on January 22, 2008.

I extend my deepest sympathies to Colonel Marsden's family. The Nation is grateful for his years of distinguished service.

HONOR OUR FALLEN HEROES OF VIETNAM!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about a bill that I have just introduced that recognizes and honors the service and sacrifice of many members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam, H.R. 4720, the "In Memory Medal for Forgotten Veterans Act".

Those so recognized are veterans who have died as a result of their service in the Vietnam War but who do not meet the criteria for inclusion on The Wall of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has a program called "In Memory" which has raised money for a plaque that has been placed near The Wall. The plaque honors "those who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service". No names are on the plaque, but all names are kept in the "In Memory Book" at a kiosk near The Wall, and families can order a copy.

My bill adds to this recognition by presenting the families of these veterans with a medal, to be known as the "Jesus (Chuchi) Salgado Medal" to be issued by the Secretary of Defense. Chuchi Salgado was an outstanding individual who lived in my Congressional district, whose exposure to Agent Orange ultimately led to his death. His relatives continue to live in my district.

Because of the boundaries that have been set for the names to be placed on The Wall,

Chuchi and many, many other Vietnam veterans are not honored in this manner. Now, with new veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, we are all taking a second look and a closer look at how veterans from past wars have been treated. While we must care for the newer veterans, we must also take this opportunity to do right by veterans of Vietnam, along with other past wars and conflicts.

I invite my colleagues to join with me in honoring these veterans. It is critical that we remember those who have fought so gallantly and sacrificed their lives for our freedom! Please join me in supporting H.R. 4720.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROBSTOWN, TEXAS

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor "The Biggest Little Town in Texas": Robstown, Texas.

Robstown has been "Celebrating a Century" this year, as the city turns 100 years old.

This centennial celebration and resolution are especially important to me because Robstown is my hometown.

I was born and raised there, attended the public schools there, and held my first job as a "printer's devil" at the local newspaper there.

Cotton and vegetable farming played an important role in the history and economy of Robstown, named after prominent local Robert Driscoll.

Robstown is a town where citizens are deeply committed to public service.

We've sent sons and daughters to shape history in local, state, and Federal offices.

County Commissioners, Sheriffs, District Attorneys, District Judges, Federal Judges, State Representatives—and this proud Member of Congress—can all trace their roots to Robstown.

Noted actress and singer, Kathryn Grant Crosby, wife of the late great crooner Bing Crosby, also hails from Robstown.

Robstown also has a great athletic tradition. Gene Upshaw, former NFL great for the Oakland Raiders, is from Robstown.

Humberto "Lefty" Barrera, bantamweight boxer on the historic 1960 Olympic team, who later earned an engineering degree at night school, also called Robstown home.

Our students also excel in the classroom, including the Robstown High School Cotton Pickers, who have achieved much in the fields of academics and athletics.

All year long, we have recognized the "Century of Celebration" which included a formal celebration on June 1.

One of our greatest traditions is the annual Cottonfest, held in October.

This year's was bigger and better than ever before.

Live music, arts and crafts, sports competitions, cook offs, contests, carnivals, and historical exhibits provide something for everyone.

We also have much to look forward to, as our town continues to grow.

Robstown enters the 21st century at the crossroads of international trade due to its

proximity to railroads, interstate highways, sea ports, and airports.

Robstown will serve as a rail hub by connecting major railway companies—Texas Mexican Railway, Kansas City Southern, and Union Pacific—with direct links to Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Houston, San Antonio, and Laredo.

Robstown is also home to the new Nueces County fairgrounds and an entertainment venue.

My hometown is the future home of an inland port, which will be the first such port in the United States, and the future home of an Army storage facility.

And no trip to Robstown would be complete without a filling yourself up with South Texas' best BBQ at Joe Cotten's.

Cotten's is an iconic restaurant where many of you have joined me for lunch South Texas style.

It is where presidential candidates, athletes, businessmen, cowboys, writers, astronauts, Generals, Admirals, other celebrities, and thousands of others have eaten over the years.

Robstown is the best of our communities in South Texas—friendly, family-oriented, and proud of their history.

It was in Robstown where my mother taught me my most important lesson: to always serve the community that gave me so many opportunities growing up.

"To whom much is given, much is expected."

Please join me in honoring Robstown on the city's 100th anniversary.

I'd like to thank Mr. CLAY and Mr. ISSA.

THE SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support H.R. 1593, the Second Chance Act of 2007. I would like to thank my dear colleague Mr. DANNY DAVIS of Illinois for sponsoring this very important legislation that addresses the prison warehousing crisis in this country. H.R. 1593, a bill of which I am an original cosponsor, addresses the very serious concerns about the compromised state of warehousing prisoners.

Earlier this year, the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security of which I am a member, held hearings to address the state of certain conditions within the United States prison system. In one of those hearings, my colleagues and I considered the merits of the Second Chance Act, and my amendment which I offered in the last Congress was included in the base bill this year.

The Second Chance Act is designed to reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and help State and local governments better address the growing population of ex-offenders returning to their communities. The bill focuses on four areas: development and support of programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, expansion of the availability of substance abuse treatment, strengthening families, and the expansion of comprehensive re-entry services.

Nearly two-thirds of released State prisoners are expected to be re-arrested for a felony or serious misdemeanor within 3 years of their release. Such high recidivism rates translate into thousands of new crimes each year and wasted taxpayer dollars, which can be averted through improved prisoner re-entry efforts.

The Second Chance Act of 2007 allocates funding towards a variety of re-entry programs. One of the main components of the bill is the funding of demonstration projects that would provide ex-offenders with a coordinated continuum of housing, education, health, employment, and mentoring services. This broad array of services would provide stability and make the transition for ex-offenders easier, in turn reducing recidivism.

Another reason why I strongly support this legislation is because it includes a provision contained in an amendment I offered during the Judiciary Committee markup of this bill in the 109th Congress. That amendment, incorporated in H.R. 1593 as section 243 of the bill, requires that the:

Attorney General shall collect data and develop best practices of State corrections departments and child protection agencies relating to the communication and coordination between such State departments and agencies to ensure the safety and support of children of incarcerated parents (including those in foster care and kinship care), and the support of parent-child relationships between incarcerated (and formerly incarcerated) parents and their children, as appropriate to the health and well-being of the children.

My amendment provides for a systematic means of ensuring the safety and support of children of incarcerated parents and the support of children of release for nonviolent offenders who have attained the age of at least 45 years of age, have never been convicted of a violent crime, have never escaped or attempted to escape from incarceration, and have not engaged in any violation, involving violent conduct, of institutional disciplinary regulations.

The Second Chance Act seeks to ensure that in affording offenders a second chance to turn around their lives and contribute to society, ex-offenders are not too old to take advantage of a second chance to redeem themselves. A second benefit of the legislation is that it would relieve some of the strain on Federal, State, and local government budgets by reducing considerably government expenditures on warehousing prisoners.

Madam Speaker, some of those who are incarcerated face extremely long sentences, and this language would help to address this problem. Releasing rehabilitated, middle-aged, nonviolent offenders from an already overcrowded prison population can be a win-win situation for society and the individual who, like the Jean Valjean made famous in Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*, is redeemed by the grace of a second chance. The reentry of such individuals into the society will enable them to repay the community through community service and obtain or regain a sense of self-worth and accomplishment. It promises a reduction in burdens to the taxpayer, and an affirmation of the American value that no non-violent offender is beyond redemption.

Madam Speaker, the number of Federal inmates has grown from just over 24,000 in 1980 to 173,739 in 2004. The cost to incarcerate these individuals has risen from \$330

million to \$4.6 billion since 2004. At a time when tight budgets have forced many States to consider the early release of hundreds of inmates to conserve tax revenue, early release is a commonsense option to raise capital.

The rate of incarceration and the length of sentence for first-time, nonviolent offenders have become extreme. Over the past two decades, no area of State government expenditures has increased as rapidly as prisons and jails. According to data collected by the Justice Department, the number of prisoners in America has more than tripled over the last two decades from 500,000 to 1.8 million, with States like California and Texas experiencing eightfold prison population increases during that time. Mr. Chairman, there are more people in the prisons of America than there are residents in States of Alaska, North Dakota, and Wyoming combined.

Over 1 million people have been warehoused for nonviolent, often petty crimes. The European Union, with a population of 370 million, has one-sixth the number of incarcerated persons as we do, and that includes violent and nonviolent offenders. This is one-third the number of prisoners which America, a country with 70 million fewer people, incarcerates for nonviolent offenses.

The 1.1 million nonviolent offenders we currently lock up represents five times the number of people held in India's entire prison system, even though its population is four times greater than the United States.

As the number of individuals incarcerated for nonviolent offenses has steadily risen, African-Americans and Latinos have comprised a growing percentage of the overall number incarcerated. In the 1930s, 75 percent of the people entering State and Federal prison were white, roughly reflecting the demographics of the nation. Today, minority communities represent 70 percent of all new admissions—and more than half of all Americans behind bars.

This is why for the last several years I have introduced the H.R. 261, the Federal Prison Bureau Nonviolent Offender Relief Act. H.R. 261 directs the Bureau of Prisons, pursuant to a good time policy, to release a prisoner who has served one-half or more of his or her term of imprisonment if that prisoner: (1) has attained age 45; (2) has never been convicted of a crime of violence; and (3) has not engaged in any violation, involving violent conduct, of institutional disciplinary regulations.

Over 2 million offenders are incarcerated in the Nation's prisons and jails. At midyear 2002, 665,475 inmates were held in the Nation's local jails, up from 631,240 at midyear 2001. Projections indicate that the inmate population will unfortunately continue to rise over the years to come.

To illustrate the impact that the Second Chance Act will potentially have on Texas, the Federal prison population for the years 2000, 2001, and 2002 reached 39,679, 36,138, and 36,635 persons respectively; the State prison population for the same years reached 20,200, 20,898, and 23,561 persons. These numbers have grown since 2002, so the impact is indeed significant and the State of Texas is an important stakeholder.

I am also concerned about the rehabilitation and treatment of juvenile offenders in my home State of Texas as it appears that the administrators of TYC have neglected their duties. The April 10, 2007 Dallas Morning News,

reported that "two former Texas Youth Commission administrators were indicted on charges that they sexually abused teenage inmates at the state juvenile prison in Pyote." The same article also cited the 2005 investigative report by Texas Rangers' Sgt. Burzynski which found that the two indicted TYC administrators, Brookins and Hernandez, had repeatedly molested inmates in the Pyote prison. The report is cited as saying that Mr. Brookins, who during some periods was the top official, had shown sex toys and pornography in his office, while Mr. Hernandez molested inmates in classrooms and closets.

I hope that all of my colleagues would join me in supporting the Second Chance Act. Passage of H.R. 1593 would be the start of a long overdue process to eliminate unnecessary costs that result from warehousing prisoners.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CASIMIR LENARD

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Col. Casimir I. Lenard AUS (Ret.) who passed from this life on December 7, 2007. At exactly the same moment, the Polish-American Congress was holding a recognition ceremony during which he was awarded with the first-ever Polish-American Congress Medal of Freedom.

Casimir Lenard was born in Chicago, Illinois on March 10, 1918. Even though Chicago had an ever-expanding Polish population, at the age of 10 he journeyed to Poland, a country who regained its independence after more than a century of being ruled by its neighbors. He studied at the Jesuit Gimnazjum in Chyrow, Poland. Upon completion, he returned to the United States to attend Northwestern University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economic History.

In receipt of his degrees, he learned of the German-Nazi's invasion of Poland. Upon hearing this news, he immediately joined the Chicago Black Horse Troop, 106th Cavalry, Illinois National Guard. This commenced a meritorious and distinguished military career. When the United States was drawn into the conflict in Europe, in 1941, he became part of the first U.S. Army to go overseas as a commissioned 2nd Lieutenant, assigned to the 1st U.S. Infantry Division. As a member of the 1st Reconnaissance Troop, Lenard was engaged in overseas combat duty from 1942 to 1945. He participated in major operations in the European Theatre including the D-Day invasion. He also served as press and radio censor with the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces.

In 1945, he returned to the United States where he married Casimira (Myra) Lamot. He worked in the family restaurant business, known as "Lenard's Little Poland" in Chicago and "Lenard's Casino" Summer Resort in Beverly Shores, Indiana. However, when the United States engaged in the Korean War, he volunteered for active duty, serving from August 1951 to 1957, under special assignment with the Headquarters Berlin Command and later in Chicago.